APPENDIX III.

[*Vide* answer to clause (*c*) of starred question No. 1452 asked by Sri A. Ratnam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 18th March 1955, page 1015 supra.]

Programme for the celebrations of the " Harijan Day ".

The crucial object of the celebration of a Harijan Day is to bring about a change of outlook on the part of the caste Hindus towards Harijans so that the latter may be treated on a footing of equality. This object must be brought out and given prominence in all the items of the celebration.

2. The Revenue Divisional Officers, at their division headquarters, the Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors at the Taluk and Firka headquarters should arrange for the observance of the day in a fitting manner, inviting the co-operation of the local Congress and Harijan Welfare workers and individuals interested in Harijan Welfare. In all other villages, the village officers should take the lead. The Government desire that every effort should be made to educate the caste Hindus and rouse an interest in them in the removal of untouchability and of the disabilities of the Harijans. The following items of activities are suggested :—

(*a*) Procession in every village with the co-operation of the local Congress and Harijan Sevak Sangh workers as well as others interested in Harijan Welfare and Public Meetings arranged in a public place. The people should be exhorted to give up the evil practice of untouchability. The provisions of the Civil Disabilities Act, Temple Entry Authorization Act, etc., should be explained in easy language and the consequences of transgressing those laws should be made clear.

(*b*) The public wells should be thrown open to the Harijans wherever possible without giving scope for any breach of peace on the occasions.

(*c*) The local school teachers and the boys of all communities in the educational institutions may be induced and encouraged to partake in the observance of the Day and do propaganda in a fitting manner.

(*d*) It should be seen that Harijans are allowed to exercise their right of worship in all public temples and they are allowed due protection in the exercise of that right.

The programme for the day may be as follows :—

Morning—Item 1.—Early in the morning arrangements may be made to clean up the Harijan quarters. Harijans may be induced to bathe and wear clean clothes.

Item 2.—Procession consisting of officials and non-officials, Harijans school children, etc., may start from Harijan quarters with National Flags and Gandiji's portrait, singing songs appropriate

to the occasion and proceed through all the important streets including those of the caste people. Bhajan parties in which both Harijans and non-Harijans take part may accompany this procession, which may end in the local temple or other public place.

Item 3.—Sports may be arranged in Harijan quarters in which both Harijans and non-Harijans can take part.

Item 4.—A cosmopolitan dinner may be arranged in the Harijan quarter in which all can take part. This will be quite voluntary.

Evening—Item 5.—Public meetings should be arranged in a central place where Harijans should be allowed to mingle freely with others. Before the commencement of the meeting prizes may be distributed to the successful competitors in the sports held in the morning.

Item 6.—At this meeting the provisions of the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act and the Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment Act) should be explained clearly to the audience. The speeches made should be such as to educate and appeal to the caste Hindus and to rouse their sympathy and enthusiasm for the removal of untouchability and other hardships that the Harijans are labouring under.

Item 7.—A light cosmopolitan lunch may also be arranged in which Haijans may serve and be served along with others.

Item 8.—In the City of Madras, the Headmasters, Headmistresses of Labour Schools may take out a procession of the school children of the locality with National Flag and Gandhiji's portrait, singing songs, appropriate to the occasion. They may also hold a meeting in the school premises or in some other suitable centre under the presidentship of any suitable leader. Light refreshments may be served to all in these meetings also, without distinction of caste or creed.

The above programme may be added to or altered, if necessary, to suit local conditions, but without change in the spirit of the observance.